The Titusville Communicator

Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

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"Dedicated to the Promotion and Preservation of Amateur Radio in Central Florida, Across the United States, Around the Globe, and Throughout the Universe"

TARC MARCH SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

I must start off the March TARC newsletter with a recap of the FANTASTIC Mosquito Net Tailgate event that was held on Saturday, March 23rd. That was such a good day for everyone and I've received a whole bunch of positive feedback on how it was conducted. An enormous debt of gratitude to everyone who jumped in and contributed to this successful celebration of Ham Radio.

Coming together for the good of all is the true essence of what our hobby is all about, and TARC did a great job of showing just what can be accomplished if you work together to make it happen. Well done to all!

A very special and well deserved THANK YOU to the amazing team of Roy and Stephanie that coordinated the food service and the very popular Mosquito Net Raffle that entertained us and kept us fed all day. You both made the tailgate event extra special this year and set a new standard for future events.

The weather looked very iffy at the beginning of the Tailgate, but in the end, I cannot remember a more pleasant and comfortable day at Fox Lake Park. We had blue skies, moderate temperatures and gentle breezes all day which really contributed to the overall success of the day. I couldn't be happier with the way it all turned out. Thank you all!

Now we swing around our antennas to lock onto to our next events and projects, and focus our attention on upcoming events and completing existing projects and starting new ones. Lots to do and lots to accomplish! See you Tuesday at 7 PM!

73 Paul

Volume I, Issue 3

March 2024

What's Happening:

- TARC FEB SITREP
- Successful Mosquito Net Tailgate
- Upcoming Events and Projects

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Remembering Ozzie Osband - N4SCY SK

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

I had the honor, privilege and very entertaining life experience to have personally known Robert "Ozzie" Osband - N4SCY, who was both a member and past-Vice President of TARC. Ozzie passed away on August 6th, 2023 and the amateur community lost a very unique voice and a very interesting man with his unexpected passing.

I knew of his work in Amateur Radio, and I worked with him during field days to learn the details of interfacing laptops with radios, as he loved working the digital modes. Ozzie never had an actual paid job on either KSC or Cape Canaveral, but he had an encyclopedic knowledge of the inner workings of the rocket launch industry.

I came to learn of his successful one-man effort to bring the "321" telephone area code to the Space Coast, but what I didn't know until after his passing was his intimate and somewhat clandestine work as a "Phone Phreak" and a bonefide and world famous "Hacker" in the early days of computer networks and data communication systems. If you research his secret hacker identity of "Richard Cheshire", and "The Cheshire Catalyst" you will find that Ozzie worked alongside the top level royalty of the world hacker community and developed an international reputation for his achievements in breaking into computer systems. He counted Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Daniel Ellsberg and Kevin Mitnik among his cohorts. Ozzie was a very unique and fascinating individual and I'm glad to have known him here at TARC.

More information:

https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/mbx003477/

https://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/12/business/technology-for-hackers-shop

Club Merger, and a possibility of a new North County repeater site?

There has been an active Amateur Radio organization in North Brevard for many years, which has been known as NBARC, or the "North Brevard Amateur Radio Club". It has been run in the Mims area for a long time, but recently their membership has been declining. The NBARC leadership approached the TARC board of directors last month with a proposed merging of our two clubs into one and we are working with their remaining personnel to accomplish that merger. A huge THANK YOU to Gary Hayward—KJ4BOJ for creating this partnership.

One of the opportunities that exist is their current repeater site located high atop the roof of the Parrish Hospital complex in North Titusville. We had an opportunity to tour the site a few weeks ago, and it's an impressive site with the potential for significant RF coverage for Brevard county and beyond. The existing NBARC repeater (K4NBR) Freq: 147.330+, Tone 107.2 is currently powered off, but is ready to return to operation once being functionally checked out. We are working with the current repeater trustee to get that asset back on the air, and stay tuned for updates on it's condition, as we are actively working that project. This is an exciting new opportunity for both TARC and the local Amateur Radio community!

View from Roof of Parrish Hospital.

Recent Donations to our Club

We've had the benefit of several amazing donations recently, and I want to take a little space in our newsletter to acknowledge and recognize the folks that do so very much to help TARC, in big ways, and in small ways ~ but they all help us continue to promote Amateur Radio in Brevard County.

We have recently received a Bird Model 43 wattmeter, and a Hameg HM-1005 dual channel 100 Mhz oscilloscope courtesy of a retired commercial radio engineer who is moving out of the area and contacted TARC for this donation. That came about through the social media efforts by our board of directors and those actively promoting our club both in person and online.

We have also received a very generous $1,000 donation from the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc. to cover the cost of many of the items given away as raffle prizes during the Mosquito Tailgate party. We owe a huge debt of thanks to their many sacrifices and generous contributions! If you'd like to learn more about this organization, or donate to their mission ~ please see Stephanie—K4MVO

Several of our members stepped up to purchase and donate the computer systems being integrated into our TARC communications trailer. These systems will allow for online contest logging, digital mode operations, and general internet usage during TARC operations.

We survive and grow based on the contributions of our membership. All contributions are welcome! Donations can come in many forms ~ time, knowledge, energy, ideas, sweat, and yes, cash!

Thanks to all that give to our club, and thanks to all of you that make it a successful and thriving community organization supporting Amateur Radio!!

What's the Topic of Discussion / Presentation for Next Meeting?

Our Vice-President, Mike—KC4JEM is giving a presentation on his very effective Wolf River mobile HF antenna system which he uses to operate from his apartment here in Titusville. The Wolf River antennas are built and sold by a couple of clever hams that turned their hobby into a business by designing and building portable and transportable antenna systems. Mike will be demonstrating his systems and telling us about his experiences with their equipment. Other upcoming presentations will include 3D printing, and how the "Echolink" system works. Looking forward to hearing all about those topics!

General Items of Interest

Repeater Status:

CALL	FREQ	TONE	PWR	LOCATION	STATUS
K4KSC	146.910	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational
K4KSC	146.970	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational—Checkout accomplished Feb 16th .
K4KSC	146.775	100.0	80 W	N. Mims	On Solar Only

Trailer Status:

Marty—KJ4LQX has been busy at work with setting up an online logging process for future contests, and has been actively engaged in configuring both the hardware and software to make this happen. The idea is to maximize the ability to both accurately log and get full credit for all contacts during contests. When fully implemented, it will vastly speed the logging of contacts, avoid duplicate contacts, and increase out ability to compete effectively in these contests.

Marty will give us the necessary training to use these logging systems, and it will help us become more effective in future contests!

Thanks Marty!

Upcoming Events:

2024 Florida QSO Party:

Object: Everyone works Florida, Florida works Everyone

Activate and work ALL Florida counties Have as much FUN as possible!

When: April 27& 28, 2024 Two ten hour operating periods, with a ten hour break:

Saturday, April 27 1600Z (Noon EDT) – April 28 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT) Sunday, April 28 1200Z (8 AM EDT) - 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT)

Exchange: RST and County (Florida stations) RST and QTH (State, Province or Country for non-FL)

Where: 10, 15, 20 and 40 Meters.

TARC will participate, if we have sufficient interest in doing so! Anyone willing to step up and be the Event Coordinator for this?

Hams Helping Hams:

We've had some of our members ask for assistance in putting up, taking down, and repairing antennas and feedlines. If you would specifically like to make a request for assistance, please notify our club leadership and we'll try to help arrange for that assistance. If you know of anyone needing help, please bring it to the leadership and we'll help make it happen.

If you are willing to help out, let the TARC leadership know also! We'll need to get these folks together.

Items Needed for the Club:

There are several projects that are both ongoing and coming up that could benefit from your active participation. The ongoing repeater work, the trailer projects, and other activities that TARC is planning only happen with everyone pitching in and making them happen. Planning, designing, building, funding ~ all needed to make our club better and better! If you have some ideas and/or experience on how to do these things, or how to raise the cash to fund them, please step up and get involved.

Secretary – See February TARC Meeting Minutes Attached Below

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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

February, 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm, by President Paul Fee, N6PDF, who welcomed all and noted that we had a larger than usual gathering. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Vice President, KC4JEM.

Membership Introductions: New members: Al, HK6PZV ; and Adam, KQ4OYN

Last Meeting Minutes Approved as Published: Yes—Unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Approved: Yes - Unanimously

Agenda:

Old Business:

1. Repeater Status Update:

a. 146.97, on Titusville Tower, site survey conducted, and details and photos were posted to TARC FB page.

b. 146.775, Denman Repeater, FPL power still not available, rather than air conditioning, we are considering a dehumidifier and using Solar Power. Looking for volunteers/people to get involved. Tom, KN4GLO, spoke about a basic $3200-$3500, solar kit which may work.

c. 146.91, Roy, N4RKM, stated that it is still operational, and considering moving it to the 120' tower in the future. He also mentioned adding a 440 Repeater.

d. President, Possibility of acquiring a new Repeater Site from another Ham club that is disbanding.

2. Annual Mosquito Net Anniversary Tailgate at Fox Lake Park, to be held on March 23 , 2024, starting at 7:00 am, to 2:30pm.

a. Paul, N6PDF, shared some history about this net, Carole Ann, KC4VIN , (SK) who started it in 1991. Celebrating it's 33 rd Anniversary this year.

b. Tom, KN4GLO, invited members to check-in, and Sally, KN4HPX, added that at times Carole Ann, would have a 1000, check-ins.

c. Stephanie, K4MVO, Explained the Raffle process and prize funding: No cost to TARC. Most Prizes will be Purchased by the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., and the profits from the Raffle will go to TARC. She also asked for donations to raffle-off.

d. To answer some questions she explained why the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Incorporated, an educational 501(c)(3) organization was started and how it is

funded; and why there are so few members.

e. Stephanie, K4MVO, handed-out flyers at HamCation in Orlando.

f. VP Mike, KC4JEM, is the Event Coordinator; and we are looking for volunteers for on-site to help with Set-Up, Food, Ticket Sales, Parking, Radio Talk-In, and Break-Down.

New Business:

1. NBARC Assets at Parrish Medical Center and possibility of co-locating TARC Assets. Still in the works and mid-discussion.

2. Barry, N4NMF, reminded members that he is the one who is coordinating Name Badges, and had a list, going around.

3. Paul, N6PDF, brought up the subject of TARC Club Shirts, and how we are looking for a new provider to have more made. Adam - KQ4OYN, responded with the input that he and his wife do shirt printing. Barry—N4NMF, also made a suggestion of a source. (It was a free-for-all discussion!)

Program:

1. Two Presentations:

a. Tom, KN4GLO, gave a great and thorough presentation on Remote Radio Operations. He has run the Mosquito Net remotely while he was travelling all over the USA. He said to check-out RemoteHams.com.

b. Dave, KY4F, and J, NB4B, gave a very demonstration how to use Flex Radios and Maestro; and J, NB4B, remotely logged into via an IPad. They also shared information about Software Defined Radios. Very cool presentation and equipment! Thank you all!

2. Paul officially announced his retirement from aerospace work. 47 years is enough!

3. 50/50 Tickets: Winner: Paul White, KQ4APR.

Amount: ½ of $80.00 = $40.00.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:01 pm. Followed by a Social Hour, and members drifted out at past 9pm. What a great meeting!

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary

Stephanie Phillips, K4MVO